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Rewald Is Given to Travel

By Charles Mëmminger
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The same Circuit Court judge who last summer set the state's highest bail on businessman Ronald Rewald yesterday agreed to let Rewald travel to the Mainland to visit his family.

Judge Robert Won Bae Chang gave his permission for Rewald to leave the Island, saying he was satisfied that the \$140,000 bail posted by Rewald is sufficient to assure he will return for his court appearances.

Rewald had been held in prison in lieu of \$10 million bail, set by Chang, after he was charged with two counts of first-degree theft by deception in the collapse of the investment firm of Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham and Wong last August.

Authorities believe Rewald might have spent as much as \$17 million of the funds placed in the firm by investors between 1978 and 1983.

Rewald claims the CIA is responsible for the missing money and on Tuesday filed a \$671 million suit against that agency. Rewald's civil attorney, Robert Smith said the grounds for the suit could not be released because of a federal court order restraining parties involved in the case from talking about CIA involvement in Rewald's company.

CIA OFFICIALS have acknowledged that the company was used as a mail drop, but said Rewald's ties with the agency were minor. In September, CIA attorney Robert Laprade filed an affidavit saying the CIA was not involved in the formation of the company and had nothing to do with Rewald's alleged theft of investors' money.

Rewald's criminal attorney, Samuel King Jr., said after yesterday's hearing that he did not

know when Rewald would leave for the Mainland but said it would be within the next few weeks, as he told Chang.

Rewald has permission to go to San Francisco to see attorney Melvin Belli and then to Wisconsin to visit his family, which he has not seen since his arrest in August. Belli is joining Rewald in suing the CIA on behalf of a group of investors.

King said Rewald may have to work to earn money for the trip. He said Rewald has had a job offer but Rewald will not say who made the offer because he does not want that person to suffer from adverse publicity.

In an interview shortly before his release from prison, Rewald said getting a job was one of his main concerns so he could have money to live and hopefully see his family.

ALL OF Rewald's personal assets were frozen by a federal court order after his company was forced into bankruptcy and investors' money was found to be missing.

Deputy City Prosecutor Peter Carlisle ranted against Rewald's request for travel, telling Chang

it is like a "snake-oil salesman" trying to get out of town before being "tarred and feathered."

"Let's not put an airplane ticket in this man's hand," Carlisle said.

Carlisle said a lot of other pointed things about Rewald and the possibility that he may not return to Hawaii if allowed to leave. All of which came as no surprise to King.

"I expect Carlisle to do what he does," King said.

As for speculation about Rewald's return to Hawaii, King said, "I have no doubt that he'll come back. I'd bet \$10,000 on it."

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COURT ARGUMENTS—Ronald Rewald, left, watches as Deputy City Prosecutor Peter Carlisle describes him as a "snake-oil salesman" during a court hearing yesterday. With Rewald is his attorney, Samuel King Jr. —Star-Bulletin Photo by Craig T. Kojima.